

THE TENNESSEAN

Franklin makes best U.S. neighborhoods list Citation praises preservation amid growth

BY KEVIN WALTERS • THE TENNESSEAN • OCTOBER 11, 2009

The Downtown Franklin Historic District has been named to a list of 10 best American neighborhoods for 2009.

The American Planning Association announced recently the 16-block district will be included as one of 10 "great neighborhoods" in the APA's Great Places in America Program.

The organization said its program aims to "exemplify exceptional character and highlight the role planners and planning play in creating communities of lasting value."

Downtown Franklin is Tennessee's first neighborhood to get this designation. This is the third national recognition that Franklin has won this year.

In January, readers of *Southern Living* magazine ranked the city as the fifth-best small town in its Readers' Choice Awards.

In March, the city was ranked by editors of *BusinessWeek* as one of the top 50 U.S. small cities for entrepreneurs to launch a business.

"The Downtown Neighborhood Association is delighted at the recognition of our efforts of many years to make our town one of the best places to live in the U.S.," said David Morris, president of the DNA.

"Neighbors, preservation organizations and city officials have worked together to make Franklin the best small town in America."

The Downtown Franklin Association was organized in 1984 to help revitalize the neighborhood's commercial core along Main Street.

APA officials recognized city planners for their contributions to the district.

"The Downtown Franklin Historic District demonstrates the lasting value created through meaningful and well-executed planning," said Paul Farmer, APA executive director. "The city has taken noteworthy

measures to ensure that Franklin's unique sense of place is not compromised by future growth and development."

Franklin Mayor John Schroer cited the balance between growth and preservation city planners face.

"Franklin is also a new growth city with corporate headquarters and businesses moving here all the time and the staff has to deal with preservation and growth and excels in both as demonstrated by this award," Schroer said.